

largely because of "some extraordinary" scientific investigations by members of the U. S. navy medical corps in 1932 and that the medical personnel who took part in the salvage, except for two pharmacists' mates, were not given recognition.—*San Bernardino Sun*, December 8, 1940.

* * *

Lunacy Board Appointment

Dr. Harold E. Fraser, personal physician to the late Governor James Rolph, Jr., was the choice today of superior court judges to the city's Lunacy Commission. Doctor Fraser succeeds the late Dr. Tilton E. Tillman.—*San Francisco Call-Bulletin*, December 17, 1940.

* * *

Coördination of Agencies Suggested

Stephenson Conducts First Departmental Meeting in History

The first department-wide meeting in the eleven-year history of the State Department of Professional and Vocational Standards this week produced suggestions that may lead to an extensive program of streamlining and elimination of waste effort, Director Dwight W. Stephenson announced yesterday. . . .

Another money-saving suggestion made was to establish referees for each board. As it is now, when, say the medical boards want to hold a hearing on a disciplinary matter, the majority of the board must sit—at per diem expense to the state, of course.

If referees were available many of the matters could be settled with just that one man sitting.

A sliding-scale on license fees for all boards was another proposition. . . .

Every board is self-sustaining by law, and funds from one board cannot be transferred to another. Stephenson does not recommend any change in this set-up—he only wants a graduating scale put in. . . .

All of these changes will require legislative action.

The sixteen boards in the department govern the following vocations and professions:

Accountants, architects, barbers, chiropractors, contractors, dentists, doctors, engineers, funeral directors, nurses, optometrists, osteopaths, pharmacists, ship brokers, veterinarians and contractors.—*Sacramento Union*, November 29, 1940.

LETTERS

Concerning Change of Name: Insurance Association of Approved Hospitals.

Oakland, California,
November 12, 1940.

To the Editor:—This is to notify you that the Insurance Association of Approved Hospitals will henceforth be known as *Hospital Service of California*, and the new address will be 364 Fourteenth Street, Oakland.

Very truly yours,
BYRON F. ASHTON, *Manager*.

Concerning Meeting of American College of Surgeons.

(COPY)

AMERICAN COLLEGE OF SURGEONS
FOUNDED BY SURGEONS OF THE UNITED STATES
AND CANADA, 1913

Chicago, December 17, 1940.

To the Editor:—Will you kindly insert in your notices of coming events the following sectional meetings of the American College of Surgeons. Program details will be sent you later covering the meeting in your area. . . .

March 26–28, Salt Lake City, Hotel Utah. Participating states: Oregon, Washington, California, Nevada, Idaho, Wyoming, New Mexico, Arizona, Colorado, Montana, and Utah.

Hospital conferences will be held in connection with each of these meetings. Fellows of the College, members of the medical profession at large, and persons interested in the institutional care of the sick and injured, are invited to the sectional meetings; on the final evening of each meeting, a meeting on health conservation, to which the public is invited will be held.

40 East Erie Street.

(Signed) AMERICAN COLLEGE OF SURGEONS.

Concerning Two Letters of Appreciation.

(COPY)

CALIFORNIA TUBERCULOSIS ASSOCIATION

San Francisco, California,
December 16, 1940.

To the Editor:—Many thanks to you for carrying the article "Tuberculosis and Racial Groups" in the December issue of *CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE*. It is very helpful to us to have such an article in the *JOURNAL* at this time, since the awareness of physicians of our Christmas Seal sale is an important factor in the success of the campaign.

45 Second Street.

With kindest regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

W. F. HIGBY,
Executive Secretary.

* * *

(COPY)

AMERICAN RED CROSS

FOUNDED 1881 UNDER THE TREATY OF GENEVA

Washington, D. C.,
December 2, 1940.

To the Editor:—The national officers of the American Red Cross are truly appreciative of the splendid coöperation given through the columns of your publication in our annual membership campaign. Your generous aid in thus reaching a wider circle of readers has been particularly important because of the heavy responsibilities devolving upon our organization as a result of our national defense program.

Again let me express our deep appreciation for your coöperation.

Sincerely yours,

G. STEWART BROWN,
National Director,
Public Information Service.

Concerning a Lecturer (C. A. de Vere) on "Anatomy of the Head and Neck."

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

DEPARTMENT OF

PROFESSIONAL AND VOCATIONAL STANDARDS
BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

Sacramento, California,
December 28, 1940.

George H. Kress, M. D., Editor,
San Francisco, California.

Re: "Dr." C. Augustus de Vere.

Dear Doctor Kress:

Reports have come to us from various sections of the state that an individual who signs his name C. Augustus de Vere, claiming to be "Director of Anatomy, Division of Educational Courses," New York is giving lecture courses (for a fee) on the "anatomy of the head and neck." One of our correspondents related, "I did not complete the course. After hearing him talk, I was quite certain he was no authority on anatomy."

Your files should show a letter signed A. E. Anderson, M. D., on the letterhead of the California Medical Association dated June 14, 1939, re this individual; also copy of a letter addressed to G. H. Kress, M. D., Secretary, California Medical Association, dated Los Angeles, June 12, 1939, signed George D. Maner, M. D.; also your letter to Doctor Anderson, Fresno, California, dated June 14, 1939, and your letter to George D. Maner, M. D., dated June 13, 1939.

Dr. H. Verrill Findlay reported on November 7, 1940, that he had communicated with the American Medical As-

sociation and "they have replied they have no record of any such person having a medical degree."

Under date of July 1, 1939, Harold Rypins, M. D., Secretary of the New York Board of Medical Examiners, wrote:

"In reply to your letter of June 20, I beg to advise you that the records of this department fail to show that C. Augustus de Vere was ever licensed or registered to practice medicine in New York State, nor have we any information concerning him. I should be very glad to see a copy of his letterhead bearing 'Department of Education of New York.'"

It has been suggested that a news item published in CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE might curtail de Vere's activities.

Very truly yours,

C. B. PINKHAM, M. D.,
Secretary-Treasurer.

Concerning Opportunities for Refugee Physicians.

(COPY)

AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATED PRESS

New York, December 16, 1940.

The Editor,
California and Western Medicine,
450 Sutter Street,
San Francisco, California.

Dear Sir:

Enclosed is a copy of a cable message received from Australia. It is forwarded in the belief that it may be of interest to you for publication.

229 West Forty-third Street.

Yours sincerely,

DAVID W. BAILEY,
American Representative.

Perth, West Australia, December 12.—The West Australian Parliament has passed a bill permitting alien refugee doctors to practice in country districts. The Executive Council is empowered to proclaim an area to be inadequately supplied with medical services as one for which regional registration may be granted adequately qualified alien doctors.

A hospital may also be declared an area for regional registration, and the registration confined to the hospital. The alien has the right of appeal against the Medical Board's refusal to register, and after holding registration for seven years for a regional area he may be registered throughout the State.

Sixteen country centres in West Australia are without doctors owing to enlistments in the army. New South Wales, Queensland, and South Australia permit registration of alien doctors who have completed a shortened course at an Australian University, but Victoria does not.

Concerning Physicians and Dentists' Symphony Orchestra in San Francisco.

(COPY)

San Francisco, California,
December 3, 1940.

Dear Doctor:

To meet a growing demand, there has been recently formed a symphony orchestra among members of the medical and dental professions under the direction of Mr. Walter Herbert, a prominent conductor. Doctors' orchestras have already been successfully established in New York, Boston, Philadelphia, and Cleveland.

The aim of this group is to give the members an opportunity to play their instruments and to become familiar with orchestral music, thus spending some hours of relaxation and pleasure. The rehearsals are held every week at the County Medical Society building on Washington Street. Mr. Herbert hopes to hold performances later, to which the doctors may invite their families and friends, therefore creating a form of entertainment which will be of value and pleasure to many. . . .

We are, therefore, soliciting those doctors and dentists who are not active members, trusting that they will be willing to give their support to this new organization. For any amount which you care to contribute, we shall be very grateful.

Please send checks to Dr. Ronald R. Pratt, 516 Sutter Street, San Francisco.

Yours very sincerely,

MRS. HANS BARKAN

MRS. ROBERT ALEXANDER

Concerning County Health Officers: Opinion of Attorney General of California.

(COPY)

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

DEPARTMENT OF

PROFESSIONAL AND VOCATIONAL STANDARDS
BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

Sacramento, California,

December 13, 1940.

Re: County Health Officers.

To the Editor:—Enclosed please find a copy of Opinion 10070 rendered by the Attorney General July 19, 1935, which deals with unlicensed medical men serving as county health officers in this state.

*Very truly yours,

C. B. PINKHAM, M. D.,
Secretary-Treasurer.

1 1 1

(COPY)

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
LEGAL DEPARTMENT

San Francisco, July 19, 1935.

Charles B. Pinkham, M. D.
Secretary-Treasurer
Board of Medical Examiners
420 State Office Building
Sacramento, California

Dear Sir:

In your communication of January 25, 1935, you ask whether a graduate of a reputable medical college who holds no form of license entitling him to practice any system of the healing art in the State of California may:

1. Accept official appointment as a salaried county health officer;
2. Give inoculations or in any way treat any ailment of the human system if so appointed;
3. Prescribe for occupants of camps for the unemployed;
4. Collect fees for such service from either the individual, county, state, or federal government.

In reply thereto permit me to state that Section 4225 of the Political Code provides that a county health officer "shall be a graduate of a medical college of good standing and repute." It does not require that such county health officer be licensed to practice medicine in this state. This requires an answer to your first question in the affirmative.

If such an unlicensed medical graduate undertook to give inoculations or in any way treat any ailment of the human system he would be violating Section 8 of the State Medical Practice Act, which permits licensed persons "to use drugs or what are known as medicinal preparations in or upon human beings and to use any and all other methods in the treatment of disease . . . or other physical or mental conditions." There would likewise be a violation of Section 17 of said Act in that such a person would be practicing or attempting to practice a system or mode of treating the sick or afflicted. This conclusion is in accordance with that reached in our opinion No. 10003, rendered to you under date of June 17, 1935, holding that the giving of inoculations constitutes the practice of medicine.

Your third question is answered in the negative. An unlicensed medical graduate is violating the sections last above referred to if he prescribes for anyone in the State of California.

The answer to your fourth question must likewise be in the negative, as an unlicensed person is not legally entitled to collect a fee from anyone for medical services.

Very truly yours,

U. S. WEBB, Attorney General.

By (Signed) LIONEL BROWNE, Deputy.